

For Immediate Release

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EQUATORIAL GUINEA'S PRESIDENT CREATES CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM COMMITTEE

BATA, Equatorial Guinea (May 11, 2011) – President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea has signed a decree creating a committee to recommend changes in the constitution. The National Committee for the Reform of the Fundamental Law of Equatorial Guinea, composed of members of congress and legally constituted political parties, is charged with leading effort to reform the fundamental law of Equatorial Guinea.

This is an effort by the government to systematically and progressively pursue greater democracy and pluralism as the nation develops.

In March, President Obiang recommended the creation of a Senate, which would convert the nation's Parliament from a unicameral to a bicameral legislature, and proposed limiting the president to two four-year terms of office. He opened this year's Parliamentary session with a call for fundamental reform of the legal system.

According to the President's decree, the main purpose of the National Committee is to create a broader opportunities for citizens to participate in the management of the country.

The decree cited "the political maturity acquired since [the political reform of 1991] by the People of Equatorial Guinea, the political movements of the nation, and the political and administrative institutions established according to popular will" as one of the reasons reform was needed.

The Commission for the Study of the Reform of the Fundamental Law will meet for ten days, in Annobón. The final report will be concluded by the leadership of the Committee and officially delivered to the President of the Republic.

To read the complete Reform of the Fundamental Law of Equatorial Guinea Decree, please visit <http://guineaecuatorialpress.com/noticia.php?id=1547&lang=en>

About Equatorial Guinea

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea (República de Guinea Ecuatorial) is the only Spanish-speaking country in Africa, and one of the smallest nations on the continent. In the late-1990s, American companies helped discover the country's oil and natural gas resources, which only within the last five years began contributing to the global energy supply. Equatorial Guinea is now working to serve as a pillar of stability and security in its region of West Central Africa. The country will host the 2011 Summit of the African Union. For more information, visit <http://www.guineaecuatorialpress.com>.

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